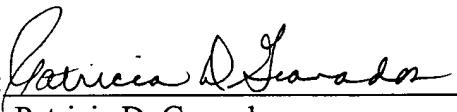


**Remarks**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made before examination of the present application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments in order to remove multiple dependencies and correct informalities. A first office action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Nov. 16, 2003

By:   
Patricia D. Granados  
Reg. No. 33,683

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & MCAULIFFE LLP  
1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone: (202) 912-2000  
Fax: (202) 912-2020

**Customer No. 26633**